

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 244882

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, PFOR, KN, KS, FJ

SUBJECT: FIJIAN VIEWS ON KOREA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. FOLLOWING IS AN EXTRACT FROM A MEMORANDUM OF OCTOBER 9
CONVERSATION BETWEEN DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL AND
FIJIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER RATU SIR PENAIA GANILAU AND
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT UN REPRESENTATIVE S. K. SIKIVOU:
QUOTE:

TURNING TO THE KOREAN QUESTION, MR. INGERSOLL SAID WE
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WOULD APPRECIATE FIJIAN SUPPORT. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE
US FAVORS FOLLOW-ON ARRANGEMENTS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

COMMAND AND OPPOSES THE ALGERIAN RESOLUTION. AMBASSADOR SIKIVOU STATED THAT THE FIJIAN POSITION WAS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION. MR. INGERSOLL REVIEWED RELATIONS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA SINCE 1972, AND SAID THE US WAS ANXIOUS TO SEE TENSIONS IN THE PENINSULA REDUCED.

MINISTER GANILAU SAID THAT FIJI HAD ONLY ONE KOREAN EXPERT, AND THAT EXPERT WAS AMBASSADOR SIKIVOU. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT FIJI'S POSITION WAS TO "KEEP UP" WITH BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH. HE SAID THAT PERHAPS MR. INGERSOLL HAD

HEARD THAT A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL WAS BEING TALKED OF. MR. INGERSOLL OBSERVED THAT THE TWO RESOLUTIONS WERE SO FAR APART THAT IT WAS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER A COMPROMISE COULD BE STRUCK. HE ADDED THAT IF IT BECAME A PROCEDURAL MATTER WE WOULD LIKE OUR RESOLUTION TO BE VOTED FIRST.

REFERRING TO THE POST-UN COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS AND THE US TROOP PRESENCE, THE AMBASSADOR ASKED HOW LONG A TRANSITION PERIOD MR. INGERSOLL FORESAW IN THE PENINSULA. MR. INGERSOLL ANSWERED THAT THERE COULD BE NO FIXED TIMETABLE, SINCE IT DEPENDED ON HOW QUICKLY TENSIONS COULD BE REDUCED; HE EXPECTED THAT SOMETHING LIKE THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE FORMULATION WOULD BE FOLLOWED.

AMBASSADOR SIKIVOU SAID HE FOUND IT HARD TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE SUPERPOWERS' ADVOCACY OF DETENTE COULD BE RECONCILED WITH THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN KOREA. MR. INGERSOLL RESPONDED THAT THE MAJOR POWERS WERE UNABLE TO DICTATE TO THE KOREANS. HE SAID EVIDENCE SUGGESTED THAT CHINA WAS ANXIOUS FOR KOREAN RELAXATION BUT WAS UNABLE TO CONVINCE PYONGYANG. END QUOTE.

2. THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, WHOSE CABINET PORTFOLIOS ARE DOMESTIC, IS NOT DEEPLY VERSED IN THE DETAILS OF FIJIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HENCE HIS REFERENCE TO SIKIVOU AS FIJI'S ONLY KOREAN EXPERT MAY HAVE BEEN SOMETHING OF AN OVERSTATEMENT, DESIGNED TO DEFLECT AWAY FROM HIMSELF ANY NECESSITY TO RESPOND TO MR. INGERSOLL'S
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OPENING STATEMENTS ON THE KOREAN QUESTION. NEVERTHELESS SIKIVOU'S REMARKS INDICATED THAT AT A MINIMUM HE IS A VERY IMPORTANT FIGURE IN SHAPING UP FIJI'S POSITION. INASMUCH AS HE COMBINES A GENERALLY PRO-AMERICAN DISPOSITION WITH A CURRENT VIEW OF KOREA WHICH DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE CONSIDERED ALL THE REALITIES AS WE SEE THEM, HE WOULD APPEAR TO BE A PROMISING TARGET FOR FURTHER USUN ATTENTION. INGERSOLL

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